

I have worked very closely with my home health agencies in my state who were extremely concerned over the impact of the 15% reduction next year. I am pleased to tell them that we have addressed their concerns by delaying this reduction for another year. I think this time will give us an opportunity to focus on this provision to determine what other adjustments, if any, may be required in the future.

Overall, the bill adds \$1.3 billion back into the home health care component of Medicare.

So I believe we have taken some significant steps to ensure that home health care agencies will be able to operate without the threat of increased Medicare reductions on their bottomline.

We have also taken steps to help hospitals and teaching hospitals with over \$7 billion in Medicare restorations. These increases will help to smooth the transition to the PPS for outpatient services—an issue that was brought to my attention by practically every hospital administrator in my state.

On the separate, but equally important issue of children's graduate medical education funding, I am especially pleased that the House passed legislation that will authorize, for the first time, a new program to provide children's hospitals with direct and indirect graduate medical education funding.

Indepednet children's hospitals, including Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, receive very little Medicare graduate medical education funding (GME). This is because they treat very few Medicare patients, only children with end stage renal disease, and thus do not benefit from federal GME support through Medicare.

I cosponsored legislation to provide greater GME funding for children's hospitals. The bill passed the Senate and House, and was signed into law by the President.

Moreover, \$40 million is contained in the omnibus FY 2000 appropriation's bill that will serve as an excellent foundation on which to provide assistance to children's hospitals.

I am also pleased that provisions from S. 1626, the Medicare Patient Access to Technology Act, were included in the BBA refinement bill.

These important provisions guarantee senior citizens access to the best medical technology and pharmaceuticals. Currently, Medicare beneficiaries do not always have access to the most innovative treatments because Medicare reimbursement rates are inadequate. And I just don't think that it's fair to older Americans. My provisions contained in the conference report change this by allowing more reasonable Medicare reimbursements for these therapies.

Take John Rapp, my constituent from Salt Lake City.

Mr. Rapp, who is 71 years old, was diagnosed with prostate cancer last May. He was presented with a series of treat-

ment options and decided to have BRACHY therapy because it was minimally invasive, he could receive it as an outpatient and it had fewer complications than radical surgery.

This new innovative therapy implants radioactive seeds in the prostate gland in order to kill cancer cells. The success rate of this therapy has been overwhelming.

So, what's the problem? Without my legislation, services such as BRACHY therapy would not be available in the hospital outpatient setting to future Medicare patients due to the way the outpatient prospective payment system is being designed.

Life saving services such as BRACHY therapy would be reimbursed at significantly lower-reimbursement rates, from approximately \$10,000 to \$1,500, and, therefore, it would not be cost-effective for hospitals to offer this service. Fortunately, the provisions included in the conference report change all of that—innovative treatments, such as BRACHY therapy, will now be available to future prostate cancer patients.

We must get the newest technology, to seniors as quickly as possible. Government bureaucracy should not stand in the way of seniors receiving the best care available.

We must put Medicare patients first, not government bureaucracy. That is why my legislation is necessary and I am so pleased that it was included in the Medicare package of the conference report.

Mr. President, there are numerous other provisions in this BBA refinement package that I will not take the time to comment on now, but they are equally important and I want to commend the leadership in the Senate and House for working to put together this important measure that will clearly help millions of Medicare beneficiaries throughout the country.

TARGETED GUN DEALER ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Brady law has been very successful. The federal law that requires background checks on deals conducted by federally licensed firearms dealers has prevented more than 470,000 prohibited persons from purchasing firearms. Unfortunately, the Brady law is not the only law enforcement tool needed to prevent felons from purchasing firearms.

Straw purchases are probably the best-known way around the Brady law. Straw purchases occur when a buyer with a clean record is hired to purchase a gun for someone who is prohibited by law from buying the gun or does not want to be traced. Often times, this is how gun trafficking is facilitated. Firearms are bought in the legal marketplace, and then transferred directly to the secondary market, where there are virtually no restrictions.

A new report issued by Senator SCHUMER shows that most guns used in

crimes are purchased in this secondary market. According to the report, which analyzed data compiled by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, in 13 percent of crimes, the crime gun could be traced to the original buyer and in 87 percent of the crimes, the gun had transferred hands.

Many of the time, these crime guns can be traced back to a small percentage of high volume dealers, who are willing to sell a single person a large quantity of firearms. Guns bought in these large quantities are often characterized by a short "time to crime," or a short period between the sale and time they are used in criminal acts. In another report issued by Senator SCHUMER, a small percentage of licensed dealers are responsible for a disproportionate number of crime guns. Specifically, in 1998, 137 dealers, or 1.1 percent of all gun dealers, were responsible for selling 13,000 crime guns.

Mr. President, I am the cosponsor of a bill that would give ATF the authority it needs to put an end to these practices. The Targeted Gun Dealer Enforcement Act of 1999 focuses in on a specific group of businesses, who have an abysmal record of having their products used for illegal activities. It would outlaw all straw purchasing and give ATF additional law enforcement tools to suspend the licenses of high-volume crime gun dealers. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help put an end to these unscrupulous practices, which keep violent persons armed.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-6926. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's "Performance Profiles of Major Energy Producers 1998"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6927. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Equity Options with Flexible Terms" (RIN1545-AV48) (TD 8866), received January 21, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6928. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Notice 92-48" (Notice 2000-11), received January 21, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6929. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subchapter S Subsidiaries" (RIN1545-AU77) (TD 8869), received January 21, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6930. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Revenue Procedure 80-18 to Reflect Repeal of U.K. ACT" (Rev. Proc. 2000-13) (RP-105329-99), received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6931. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reporting Election Workers' Pay" (Rev. Rul. 2000-6), received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6932. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Call for Redemption", received January 20, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6933. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Penalties for False Drawback Claims" (RIN1515-AC21), received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6934. A communication from the Secretary of Energy transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's funds that have been obligated for fiscal year 1999 in the area of protection, control, and accounting of fissile materials in Russia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6935. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Strategy and Threat Reduction transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the elimination of certain Russian ICBMs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6936. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative crimes and criminal activity on military installations or involving a member of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6937. A communication from the Under Secretary for Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the National Defense Stockpile; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6938. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Drug Applications; Drug Master Files" (910-AA78), received January 20, 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6939. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Exemption From Premarket Notification and Reserved Devices; Class I" (Docket No. 98N-0009), received

January 20, 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6940. A communication from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits", received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6941. A communication from the Chief of Staff, National Indian Gaming Commission transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Internal Control Standards" (RIN3141-AA11), received January 21, 2000; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-6942. A communication from the Chief of Staff, National Indian Gaming Commission transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Issuance of Certificates of Self-Regulation to Tribes for Class II Gaming" (RIN3141-AA04), received January 21, 2000; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-6943. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bifenthrin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL #6485-2), received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6944. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation Y-Bank Holding Companies and Changes in Bank Control", received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6945. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Export Administration's annual report for fiscal year 1999 and the 2000 report on Foreign Policy Export Controls; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6946. A communication from the President of the United States transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to continuation of the emergency regarding terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6947. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Attacking Financial Institution Fraud: Fiscal Year 1997 (Second Quarterly Report)"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6948. A communication from the Secretary, Mississippi River Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6949. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6950. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Service's report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6951. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's

report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6952. A communication from the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6953. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Analysis, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6954. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition and Technology, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6955. A communication from the Director, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6956. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6957. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Budget and Programs, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6958. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6959. A communication from the Under Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6960. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6961. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Retirement Eligibility under the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 for Nuclear Materials Couriers Employed by the Department of Energy" (RIN3206-AI666), received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6962. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to additions to and deletions from the Procurement List, received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6963. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the new mileage reimbursement rate for Federal employees who use privately owned automobiles while on official travel; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6964. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to accounts containing unvouchered expenditures potentially subject to audit by the Comptroller of the Currency; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6965. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, a report entitled "Restoring Merit to Federal Hiring: Why Two Special Hiring Programs Should be Ended"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6966. A communication from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Storage of Federal Records" (RIN3095-AA86), received December 2, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6967. A communication from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agency Records Centers" (RIN3095-AA8), received December 2, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6968. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementing Foreign Proposals to NASA Research Announcements on a No-Exchange-of-Funds Basis", received January 20, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6969. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Second Memorandum Opinion and Order in the Matter of Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems" (CC Docket #94-102, FCC 99-352), received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6970. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment 9 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan" (RIN0648-AL31), received January 3, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6971. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Monkfish Fishery Management Plan" (RIN0648-AJ44), received November 23, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6972. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "American Lobster Fishery" (RIN0648-AH41), received January 20, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6973. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries; Hawaii-based Pelagic Longline Area Closure" (RIN0648-AN44), received January 20, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6974. A communication from the Chief Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closure of Specified Groundfish Fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska", received January 10, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6975. A communication from the Chief Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeast United States; Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fishery; Suspension of Minimum Surf Clam Size for 2000", received January 10, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6976. A communication from the Chief Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders", received December 27, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6977. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeast United States; Scup Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Winter II Period", received December 7, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6978. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Commercial Reopening from Cape Flattery to Leadbetter Point, WA", received December 7, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6979. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Fishing Season Notification" (I.D. 111899C), received December 7, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6980. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Closure of Purse Seine Fishery for Bigeye Tuna", received January 10, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6981. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Transfer; Commercial Quota Harvest Reopening", received January 6, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6982. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Closure of U.S. Purse Seine Fishery for Yellowfin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean", received January 10, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6983. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands", received January 6, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6984. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Commercial Haddock Harvest", received November 22, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6985. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off the West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustments", received January 6, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6986. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off the West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Commercial and Recreational Inseason Adjustments and Reopening from Cape Flattery to Leadbetter Point, WA", received December 7, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6987. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Black Sea Bass Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Quarter 4 Period", received January 3, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6988. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna: Retention Limit Adjustment" (I.D. 120199C), received January 3, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6989. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Domestic Fisheries Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeast United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan" (RIN0648-AK79), received January 19, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6990. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Domestic Fisheries Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States-Final Rule to Implement Framework Adjustment 31 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan" (RIN0648-AN15), received January 13, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6991. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson Act Provisions; Foreign Fishing; Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Annual Specifications and Management Measures; Emergency Rule" (RIN0648-AM21), received January 13, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6992. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of

Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim 2000 Harvest Specifications for Gulf of Alaska Groundfish", received January 10, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6993. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Permit Requirements for Vessels, Processors, and Cooperatives Wishing to Participate in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock Fishery Under the American Fisheries Act" (RIN0648-AM83), received January 6, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6994. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Northern Anchovy/Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery; Amendment 8" (RIN0648-AL48), received January 3, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6995. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Harvest Quotas" (RIN0648-AN04), received January 3, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6996. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Establish a Separate Maximum Retainable Bycatch Percentage for Shortraker and Rougheye Rockfish in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-AM36), received December 7, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6997. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pollution Prevention Incentives for Tribes Grant Guidance", received December 31, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6998. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Interim Guidance on the CERCLA Section 101 (10)(H) Federally Permitted Release Definition for Certain Air Emissions"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6999. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Slotted Guideposts at NSPS Subpart Ka/Kb Storage Vessels"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7000. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Closeout Procedures for National Priorities List Sites"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7001. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Section 1018—Disclosure Rule Enforcement Response Policy"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7002. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Environmental Management Review (EMR) National Report: Lessons Learned in Conducting EMRs at Federal Facilities"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7003. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "New Source Review (NSR) Sector Based Approach"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7004. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7005. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Quality Assurance Term and Condition"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7006. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Information Collection Requirements"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7007. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Research Misconduct under Assistance Agreements"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7008. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Term and Condition for Year 2000 Compliance"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7009. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7010. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Indian Tribes: Air Quality Planning and Management"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7011. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants;

Determination of Threatened Status for the Newcomb's Snail (*Erinna newcombii*)", received January 21, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7012. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for Two Larkspurs from Coastal California, 'Delphinium bakeri' (Baker's larkspur) and 'Delphinium luteum' (yellow larkspur)" (RIN1018-AE23), received January 21, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-373. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to lifetime health care for military retirees; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 183

Whereas, The men and women who have devoted themselves to military service on behalf of their fellow citizens are entitled to receive the benefits promised them when they began their patriotic service. When these people signed up for the difficult and dangerous work of protecting our country and way of life, they were assured that the country would provide lifetime health care benefits; and

Whereas, This implied contract is not being fulfilled. Upon reaching the age of sixty-five, military retirees lose a significant portion of promised health care due to Medicare eligibility. This situation is made more severe by the fact that many military retirees do not live near military treatment facilities; and

Whereas, Military retirees have significantly less access to health care than other retired federal employees covered under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. This is especially true in light of inequities between coverages for pharmaceuticals; and

Whereas, There are proposals under consideration in Congress to rectify this problem and extend to military retirees the benefits they have earned and deserve. In addition, there are pilot projects operating that address the problem by allowing Medicare-eligible retirees to enroll in a program through the Department of Defense. Clearly, there are options available to provide military retirees the care to which they are entitled; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to maintain or improve our nation's commitment to military retirees to provide lifetime health care; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-374. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to compensation for members of the military reserve and national guard when called to active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 213

Whereas, the members of the military reserves and National Guard represent a vital